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OF 4
ASSESSING THREATS...
RECOMMENDED ACTION...
...TERMINATION
Tracey Yardley!
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SONIC UNIVERSE | 73

Archie ACTION!
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SONIC UNIVERSE 73
SONIC UNIVERSE™
SPARK OF LIFE
3
OF 4
EXTREME BFFS
VARIANT
"BRING IT ON!!"
AGNES '15
WORLDS UNITE IN 3

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games!
Where Nicole, the artificial intelligence, is finally confronted by a mysterious being ...

SONIC UNIVERSE™

CHARACTER SELECT

PRINCESS SALLY ACORN
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER

NICOLE THE HOLO-LYNX
ADVANCED A.I.

DR. ELLIDY
RETIRED HERMIT

???

PREVIOUSLY...

CLOSED SPACE SECRETS

On Isolated Island, Sally, Tails, Nicole and Big met up with Nicole's creator, Dr. Ellidy. After Dr. Eggman attacked the island in the past, Dr. Ellidy repurposed the madman's leftover badniks for his own use.

However, the badniks have started to misbehave... and while Nicole tries to get to the root of the problem, Sally stumbles upon a **dark secret...**

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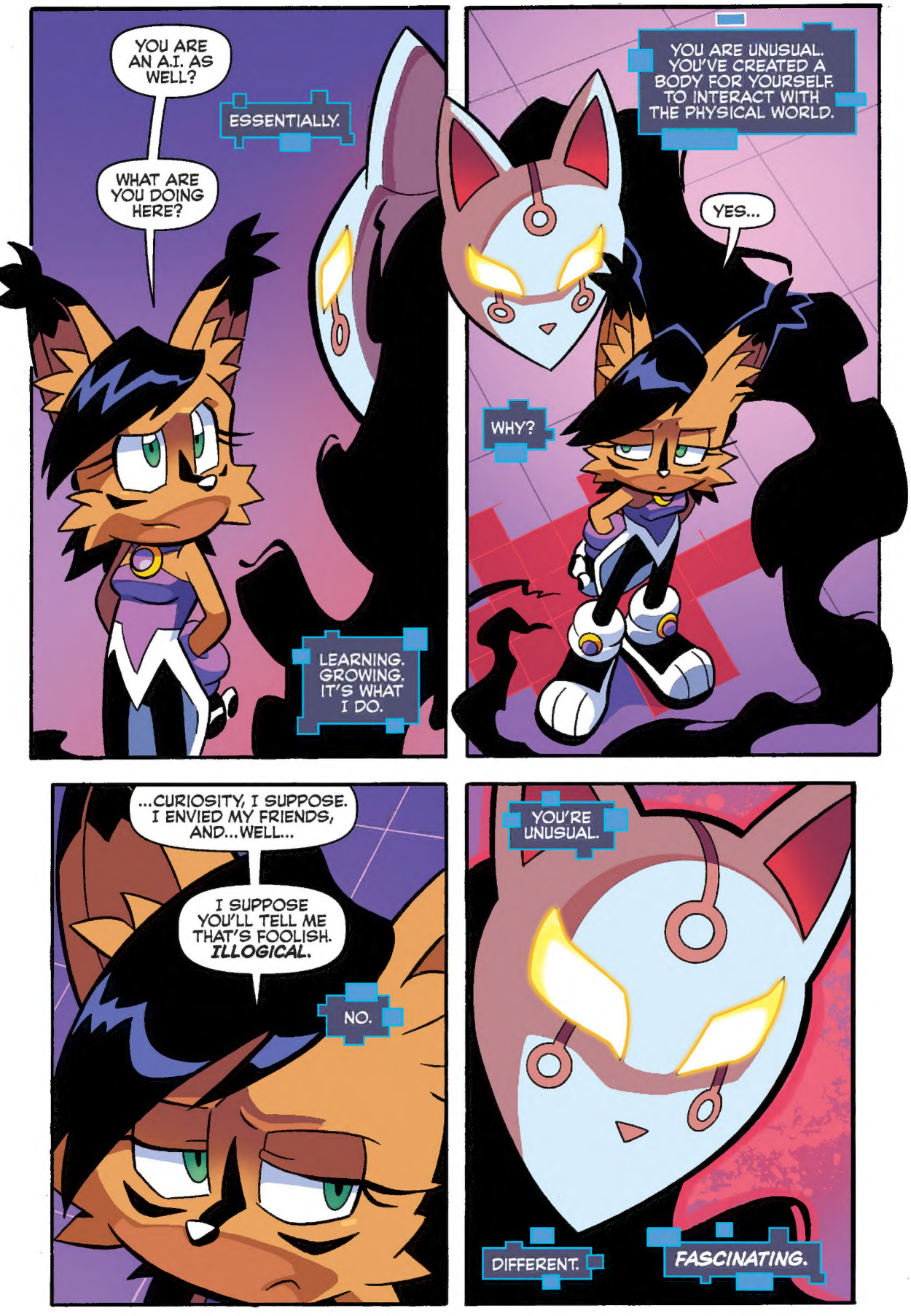
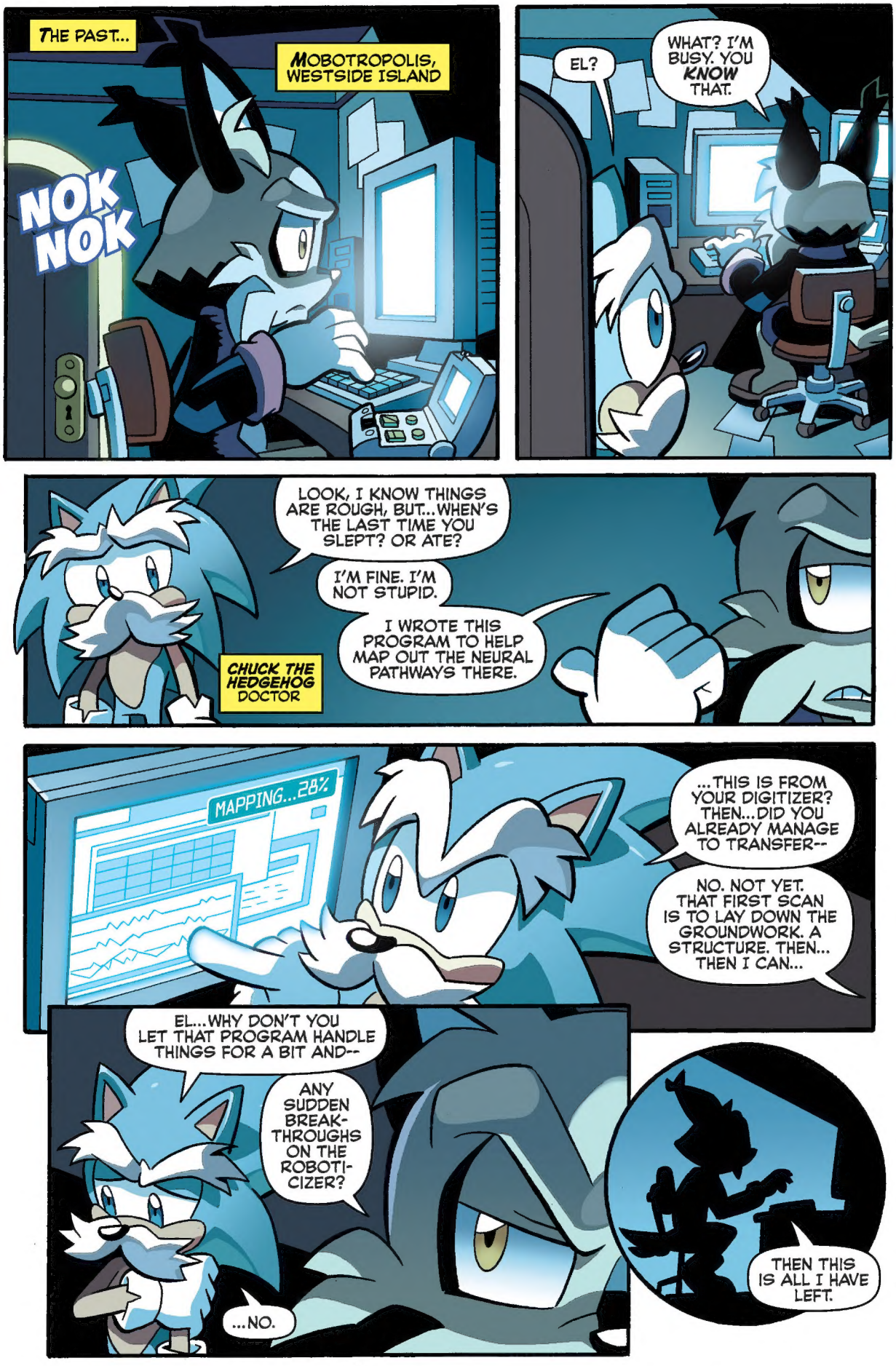
ISOLATED ISLAND...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHO IS THIS? SHE REMINDS ME OF NICOLE--
SALLY ACORN LEADER AND PRINCESS
DON'T YOU SAY THAT. DON'T.
DR. ELLIDY HERMIT SCIENTIST
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM WITH NICOLE, ANYWAY? YOU CREATED HER!
THE PHOTO IS OF MY DAUGHTER. NIKKI. SHE...PASSED AWAY SEVERAL YEARS AGO.
NICOLE WAS SUPPOSED TO SAVE HER LIFE.

THE DIGITAL WORLD
NICOLE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND HERO
SYSTEM PARTITIONE
NOW THAT'S INTERESTING.
INTRIGUING.
FASCINATING.
YOU KNOW, IF AN ORGANIC BEING DIES WITH A SECRET, THAT SECRET DIES WITH THEM.
BUT DIGITAL INFORMATION IS STORED, REPLICATED, SPREAD OUT INDEFINITELY... IT'S MUCH HARDER FOR IT TO DISAPPEAR.
IF DR. ELLIDY WERE TO DIE, WHAT SECRETS WOULD HE TAKE WITH HIM?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
WHO ARE YOU?
Oh. YOU CAN CALL ME PHAGE.


YOU ARE AN A.I. AS WELL?
ESSENTIALLY.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
LEARNING. GROWING. IT'S WHAT I DO.
YOU ARE UNUSUAL. YOU'VE CREATED A BODY FOR YOURSELF. TO INTERACT WITH THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
YES...
WHY?
...CURIOSITY, I SUPPOSE. I ENVIED MY FRIENDS, AND...WELL...
I SUPPOSE YOU'LL TELL ME THAT'S FOOLISH. ILLOGICAL.
NO.
YOU'RE UNUSUAL.
DIFFERENT.
FASCINATING.

SO...YOU ARE THE ONE INTERFERING WITH THIS SYSTEM.
YES.
YOU ATTACKED DR. ELLIDY IN THE DIGITAL WORLD?*
YES.
*SU #71
AND YOU USED THE BADNIK AT THE LAKE TO ATTACK MY FRIENDS?*
YES.
*SU #72
THAT'S ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.
SWOOSH
QUARANTINE
SSSSSS
THERE, NOW--
...WHAT THE...

KROOM
WELL. THAT WAS CUTE.
AMUSING.
MILDLY ENTERTAINING.
I'M HERE WITH CERTAIN OBJECTIVES, NICOLE.
I INFILTRATED THIS SYSTEM BEFORE YOU EVEN KNEW IT WAS HAPPENING.
YOU CAN'T STOP ME.
AND WHILE I DO FIND YOU FASCINATING...
TALK IS SLOW.


THE PAST...
MOBOTROPOLIS, WESTSIDE ISLAND
NOK NOK
EL?
WHAT? I'M BUSY. YOU KNOW THAT.
LOOK, I KNOW THINGS ARE ROUGH, BUT...WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU SLEPT? OR ATE?
I'M FINE. I'M NOT STUPID.
I WROTE THIS PROGRAM TO HELP MAP OUT THE NEURAL PATHWAYS THERE.
CHUCK THE HEDGEHOG DOCTOR
MAPPING...28%
...THIS IS FROM YOUR DIGITIZER? THEN...DID YOU ALREADY MANAGE TO TRANSFER--
NO. NOT YET. THAT FIRST SCAN IS TO LAY DOWN THE GROUNDWORK. A STRUCTURE. THEN... THEN I CAN...
EL...WHY DON'T YOU LET THAT PROGRAM HANDLE THINGS FOR A BIT AND--
ANY SUDDEN BREAK-THROUGHS ON THE ROBOTI-CIZER?
...NO.
THEN THIS IS ALL I HAVE LEFT.

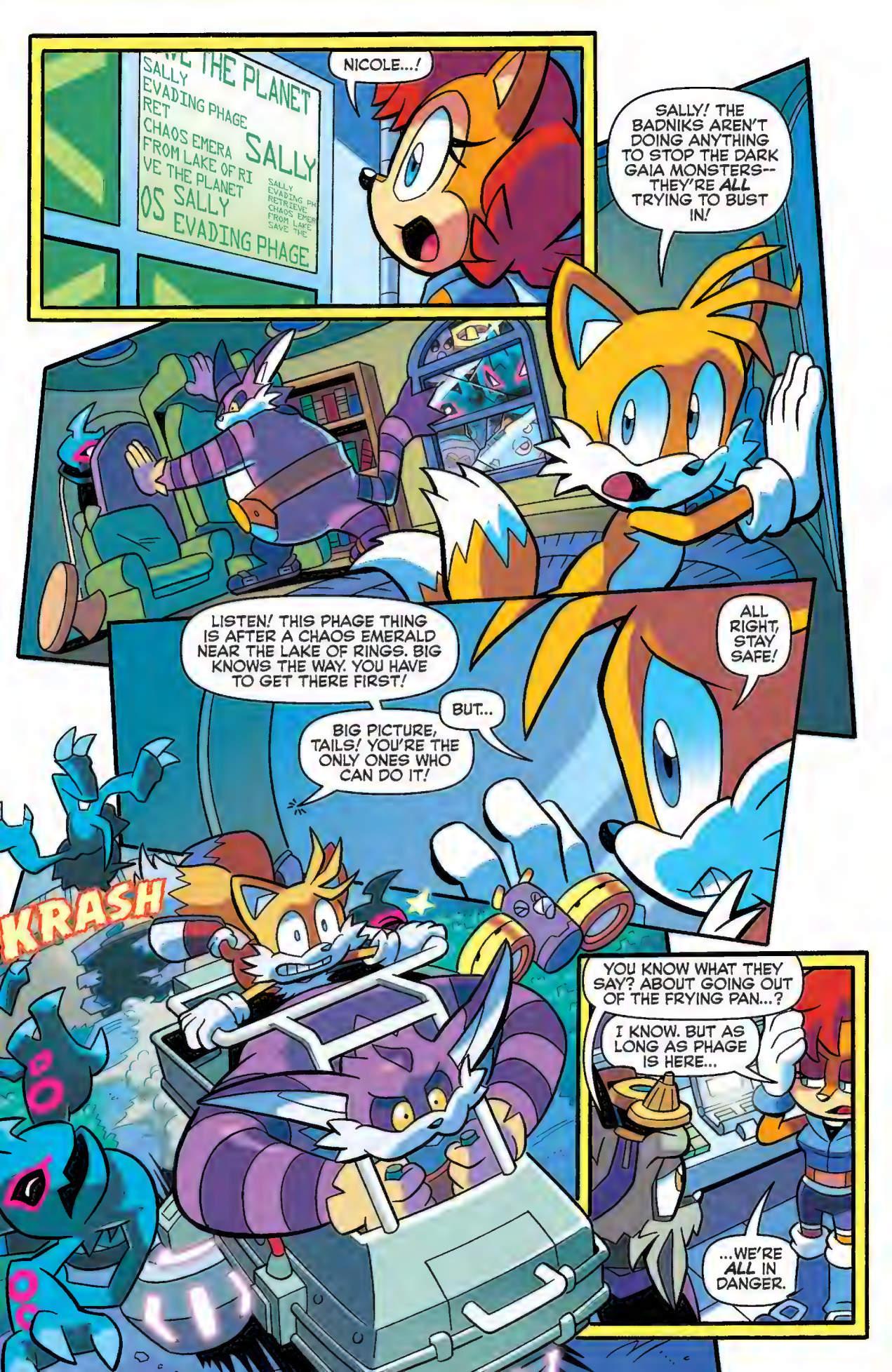
THE PRESENT...
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. NIKKI IS YOUR DAUGHTER. BUT NICOLE IS NOT NIKKI.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU, NIKKI'S DEAD. SHE WAS... WASTING AWAY.
I'D HOPED SHE COULD LIVE ON IN SOME FORM VIA THE DIGITIZER... BUT...
THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE PROGRAM THAT WAS MAPPING HER NEURAL SCANS... THAT...BECAME NICOLE?
LOOK, I'M SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, BUT IT'S NOT FAIR TO BLAME NICOLE FOR YOUR DAUGHTER'S DEATH!
I DIDN'T!
THAT'S WHY I GAVE NICOLE TO YOU INSTEAD OF JUST DELETING IT ALL!
BUT NOW... SEEING HER LIKE THIS...WALKING AROUND WHILE MY POOR NIKKI NEVER GOT THE CHANCE TO... TO...

OKAY, YOU MAY HAVE NOT MEANT FOR ALL THIS, BUT NICOLE'S HERE NOW! YOU MUST KNOW THAT YOU'RE HURTING HER FEELINGS BY IGNORING--
"HURTING" HER? DOES SHE ACTUALLY KNOW WHAT "HURT" IS? DO YOU?!
HOW DARE YOU?!
WHEN I LOST MY FATHER--
YOU GOT YOUR FATHER BACK!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? YOU... YOU CAN'T...
...WHY ARE WE EVEN...
...Oh NO...

IT'S DARK GAIA! THE STUFF LEAKING FROM THE PLANET'S CORE IS AFFECTING OUR MINDS! GET BACK INSIDE!
WHA...? DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. MY ROBOTS WILL PROTECT...
NO, THEY WON'T!
MOVE!
TAILS! BIG!
WAKE-UP-WAKE-UP-WAKE-UP!
Z
HURRY! THE DOOR!
WHOOSH
GET TO THE LAB! WE NEED TO--
KCHUNCK
OOF!

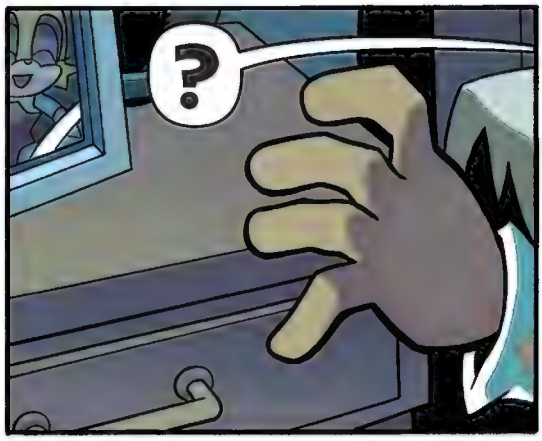
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE DOOR'S SHUT TIGHT!
NICOLE! WE REALLY NEED ELLIDY'S BADNIKS BACK ONLINE AND ON OUR SIDE! THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS--
I'M SORRY. NICOLE IS UNAVAILABLE. I'M IN CONTROL NOW.
WHO ARE YOU?!
I AM PHAGE. I AM HERE TO RETRIEVE THE DOCTOR'S RESEARCH, THE RED STAR RINGS...
...AND THE CHAOS EMERALD ON THIS ISLAND.
CHAOS EMERALD...?
THOSE READINGS... I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...*
WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?
*SU #72
WHO DO YOU THINK?

IF WE GIVE YOU THE RED STAR RINGS, WILL YOU LET NICOLE GO?
NO.
SHE IS MINE.
PRINCESS...IF WE SHUT DOWN THE SYSTEM ENTIRELY--
WE'D BE DESTROYING NICOLE ALONG WITH PHAGE.
THAT THING NOW CONTROLS ALL MY BADNIKS. IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME--
WE ARE NOT GIVING IN THAT EASILY.
Hmm. IT SEEMS YOU'D MAKE A USEFUL LITTLE HOSTAGE.
OF COURSE, HOW WOULD THEY KNOW IF YOU WERE GONE? I COULD JUST--
NO!


NICOLE...!
SALLY! THE BADNIKS AREN'T DOING ANYTHING TO STOP THE DARK GAIA MONSTERS-- THEY'RE ALL TRYING TO BUST IN!
ALL RIGHT, STAY SAFE!
LISTEN! THIS PHAGE THING IS AFTER A CHAOS EMERALD NEAR THE LAKE OF RINGS. BIG KNOWS THE WAY. YOU HAVE TO GET THERE FIRST!
BUT...
BIG PICTURE, TAILS! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN DO IT!
KRASH
YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY? ABOUT GOING OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...?
I KNOW. BUT AS LONG AS PHAGE IS HERE...
...WE'RE ALL IN DANGER.

CASTLE ACORN THE PAST...
CRREEAAKK
HGFM... WHU...

UGH...NICOLE, WHAT TIME IS IT...?


?

WHAT THE...

HEY! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!

WELL... I'M NICOLE.
YOU'RE... WAIT, WHAT? HOW...?
IT'S...RATHER COMPLICATED. I CAN EXPLAIN LATER. IT'S JUST THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO MAINTAIN THIS FORM FOR LONG, AND...
...I WANTED TO SEE THE STARS. REALLY SEE THEM... THE WAY YOU DO.
THEN LET'S GO SEE SOME STARS.

THE PRESENT-- THE DIGITAL WORLD
ARE YOU REALLY TRYING TO RUN AWAY? THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO GO, NICOLE.
IT'S FUTILE.
POINTLESS.
HOPELESS.
I CONTROL THIS SYSTEM. I WILL ABSORB YOUR UNIQUE CODING ALONG WITH EVERYTHING ELSE.
I DON'T HAVE A COZY LITTLE HANDHELD LIKE YOU. I AM EVERYWHERE.
I AM NOT CONTAINED BY ANY SERVER. I'VE INFECTED HUNDREDS OF SYSTEMS. ALL OF THEIR INFORMATION, THEIR RESOURCES, THEIR PROCESSING POWER...
...ARE LINKED DIRECTLY TO MY CORE.

YOU MUST KNOW YOU CAN'T OUTLAST ME.
HAVE YOU PRETENDED TO BE ALIVE FOR SO LONG THAT YOU'VE LEARNED TO FEAR DEATH?
EMERALDCOASTVACAY. JPG
CHAOGARDENVISIT. JPG
EMPIRECITYSCIENCEFAIR. JPG
1st
WHO...
KRAKOOM!
AHHH!

I CAN'T STAND THIS!
WHAT IF NICOLE CAN'T STOP PHAGE BY HERSELF? HOW CAN I BE SO USELESS?!
EVEN IF WE HANDED OVER THE RED STAR RINGS... THAT WON'T SAVE US, WILL IT?
I NEED TO DO SOMETHING. I NEED TO...
HERE. TAKE ONE OF MY BLADES.
IN CASE THE BADNIKS BREAK THROUGH.
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M USING THE DIGITIZER.

ABSOLUTELY NOT! YOU CAN'T RISK YOURSELF LIKE THIS! FOR CRYING OUT LOUD, YOU'RE A PRINCESS!

YOU'RE RIGHT. I AM A PRINCESS. AND AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, MY FAMILY EXISTS TO SERVE ITS PEOPLE.

I GET IT. YOU DIDN'T INTEND TO CREATE NICOLE. AND MAYBE YOU DON'T LIKE HAVING HER AROUND.

BUT DON'T YOU DARE SUGGEST TO ME THAT SHE ISN'T A PERSON WORTH SAVING!

NOW-- WHETHER YOU HELP ME OR NOT, I'M GOING IN.

THERE'S NO NEED TO FEAR, NICOLE. THINK OF IT AS A TRANSITION TO A GREATER WHOLE.
VRRRRMMMMMMM
I PROMISE IT WON'T HURT.
GRAAAH!
SORRY...
...BUT I'M NOT HOLDING MYSELF TO THAT PROMISE.
IF YOU WANT NICOLE, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO GO THROUGH ME!

OFFER ACCEPTED.
SPARK (OF) LIFE
PART THREE
PLOT: IAN FLYNN / SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER
PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY / INKS: JIM AMASH
COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: JACK MORELLI
COVER by: TRACY YARDLEY
EXTREME BFFS VARIANT COVER by: AGNES GARBOWSKA
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and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT
of SEGA CORPORATION
CORRUPTED ROBOTS AND DARK MONSTERS
ARE RUNNING RAMPANT!!
THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THE THREAT IS TO SHUT DOWN PHAGE HERSELF-- BUT CAN SALLY AND NICOLE FIGHT HER IN HER OWN ELEMENT?! FIND OUT NEXT MONTH IN THE HIGH-STAKES CONCLUSION OF
SPARK OF LIFE!
AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, AND THE BRAND NEW SERIES SONIC BOOM EACH MONTH, THE SONIC SUPER SPECIAL MAGAZINES AND SONIC SUPER DIGESTS EACH QUARTER, AND THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY ANY TIME!

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